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Vicky Steps Out

In Cotton

● by Jo Ann Breckenridge

VICKY'S having a hey day. Spring is coming and she has only one cool cotton dress in her closet. So she's haunting the fabric counters and is delighted as a kitten with catnip at what she's found. Her old dresses, too short, faded or worn out, are on the way to children in Holland or dusting the furniture on cleaning day. The new ones she's making are planned to make her look as cool as a Union malt when hot weather arrives.

Vicky used to think of chemistry as three or more quarters of agony designed to lower beautiful grade points. But after seeing what wonderful things "science with practice" has done to take cotton out of the kitchen and into the classroom and the glamorous whirl of Veishea dances, she's glad there is such a science.

Gay Irridescent Plaids

Last fall, Vicky's very special dress was iridescent. It shimmered and changed color with every subtle change in light or motion. Those same iridescents are headlining spring's fashion story in silk or rayon shantungs, cotton chambray, butcher linen and poplin. The clan's all doing a highland fling over the gay iridescent plaids—a wise way to spend your pennies, Vicky's Scotch friends declare. You'll look like a charming tintype in some iridescents which achieve a woven look by being printed on both sides of the cloth. They look like the yarn dyed woven cottons Vicky's grandmother treasured.

Men like the whispering swish and rustle of winter's taffeta. This summer Vicky and all of you will keep the men happy in cottons that sound like taffeta.

Stripes are eye-catchers this spring. Straight from the bandbox is this cotton dress with its sparkling white pique lines.

You'll buy or make them in old-fashioned charmers with dark background calico prints. Most eye-catching is the almost microscopic black splatter print on gay color ground. It too, is a rustler. Bright and clannish are the cotton taffeta plaids that will be square dancing in Great Hall this spring.

Wrinkle-shed Cottons

Vicky picks cotton cord for a charming and washable dress, that can be tossed into a suitcase and worn later without pressing. Today's cords are treated with a synthetic resin finish which chases wrinkles and adds a pretty worsted effect to some. It's a difficult decision for Vicky to decide between wrinkle-shed cotton tweed, crease resistant voile and lovable chambray that keeps its press. They'd each make a dress in which she could sit through three lectures and an art lab and still look fresh at her 4 o'clock Union lab date.

Like a reel from a period movie, this spring's campus will star prints from the pages of history. Vicky's discovered fabrics in old jacquard patterns from 18th Century brocades and in patterns from ageless French brocades. There are patterns in a highly colored native technique from South Africa and a bold, crude geometric strip executed in brilliant colors by the American Indian.

Colorful Spring Cottons

Spectators at Veishea will be as colorful as the parade of floats if all coeds follow Vicky and blossom in dresses of pale peach, copper and brown, purple and plum, every shade of green and all the blues you can remember. There are shades called bronze lacquer, pink copper and blue ore. Polka dots are scattered everywhere.

Dior approved long skirts, and hemlines dropped inches. Now Dior has approved the heavy linen dress for spring and Vicky is sure we'll all follow, for linen is one of our coolest fabrics. Vicky loves the new crease-resistant linen that you can sit in all day and not sit out. You can have it in ice-cream pink, oyster white, "pretty" blue, black or navy. Here's another

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Dior trick—combine matching taffeta with that linen for a really distinctive dress.

Not to be outdone by Paris, California launches the movement toward fabrics sheer, crisp and clear in picture book frocks. Dresses with falsely modest high-buttoned necklines and full skirts over a gayly colored strapless sundress, are fashioned from organdy. There are dotted sheers for evening, chiffons, pleated and shirred for afternoon, and dotted swiss for classes.

Vicky's still going around in circles. There are cottons that stand out as damask, that are mercerized to a silken shimmer. There's a knit sharkskin in wonderful, imaginative prints. There's matelasse, with its lovely raised design in silk, nylon and cotton. Puckery picolay is spotlighted as a cotton, permanently raised to resemble pique. New and novel, a nubby textured cotton is tubbable and puts a feel in fashion. Its a year for fabrics—and Vicky loves it.

Be A Man Saver

A MAN'S lowest ebb comes when he calls for a date on the telephone and she says "no."

He's probably spent quite a little time deciding where he would like to go and, with the aid of his buddies, he has decided who would be his most enjoyable date.

The human male is an optimist when it comes to dealing with the fairer sex so he's never once considered the fact that she might say no. He has planned his opening sentence and another idea to keep the pending conversation going. Then he runs over the when, where and how so he'll not forget any of it.

After waiting in anticipation for his next date to come to the phone, he gets off to a good start with a few friendly remarks. From there he leads into the point of his call. But what happens? She politely says no. She has made other plans for that evening. The ensuing dead air is excruciating. All of his plans are dashed, there's not much more he can say. The silence is broken only by a few stutters.

A woman who gracefully starts the conversation going again is a man-saver. Besides, he's much more apt to call again.

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